

## Jessie White

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**From:** Jim Scholl [jim\_scholl@dot.state.ak.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 05, 2007 10:54 AM  
**To:** 'Jessie White'  
**Subject:** FW: Juneau Access Road

Please log this in Jessie. Thanks! Jim

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**From:** Kristin Hathhorn [mailto:hathbat@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 05, 2007 10:35 AM  
**To:** DOT\_STIP@dot.state.ak.us  
**Subject:** Juneau Access Road

To AKDOT,

As someone who uses the ferry system often, I find it reliable and safe. This is in stark contrast to the proposed Juneau access road. When the weather is bad, there is no better feeling than to get on the ferry, relax, and know I (or my loved ones) will make it to Juneau safely. The proposed road offers no assurances of the same. I also question whether this is the best use of State funds. As one who lives in Haines, I have seen minor road projects/repairs take years to be fixed. If it takes the State that long to repair minor problems, how does the State expect to maintain a road that will certainly be impacted by the harsh SE winters as well as avalanche concerns? In the book, "Snowstruck", by Jill Fredston, she writes about the 2000 avalanche season and the associated road closures between Anchorage and Girdwood. The avalanche killed one state employee (Kerry Brookman) and caused considerable damage. Joe Perkins, then commissioner of the State Department of Transportation, said, "The avalanche impressed me with the importance of giving greater consideration to avalanche-prone areas when designing and building roads." The proposed Juneau road would bisect several dozen avalanche paths putting the public as well as state employees at considerable risk. I would rather see the State of Alaska use state dollars to improve the ferry system. I also would like to ask one question that you (legislators, Governor, supporters of the road etc.) should answer honestly: During a winter storm, would you rather have your children get on a ferry to Haines or Skagway or would you rather see them drive or be transported on a dark, avalanche prone road, by school bus to an event out of town? I know what my answer is and I'm sure, if you answer honestly, I know what your's would be too.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Battaion,  
Haines, AK

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